

money, every single time, to the tune of \$3,128 per family per year. That is what we are beginning to see. This is going to increase your cost of doing business in your home every single day of living, that maintenance of life that we all go through.

We're very concerned about this part of the proposal, the cap-and-tax. It is part of the \$1.4 trillion increase.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield back my time, and I thank you for yielding the time.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 14 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God Almighty, Creator of all things great and small, the ancient Celtic people took such joy in nature's secrets as well as its beauty. They found Your presence in every spring, every lake, forest and glen. Each was a sanctuary where prayer came easily, and the poetry of creation became a spark of Your own Divine light.

Be with Congress today. Bless its aspirations and its work. Be close to this Nation, and intimately present to its people.

In the midst of anxieties, busy work, and grave responsibilities, grant them a moment to be touched by Your glorious creation so they, too, find praise on their lips and joy in their hearts for another day, and a sense of Your eternal goodness.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KINGSTON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CONCERNS OVER AIG BONUSES

(Mr. BUTTERFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, like most Americans, I am deeply outraged this morning that while millions of people suffer through this difficult economy, AIG executives are seeking to take \$165 million in bonus pay. The scope and depth of this waste and greed are just shocking and unjustifiable. It is beyond my imagination that they would do that.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a district in North Carolina where the median household income is just a little bit more than \$30,000 per year. These Americans must work extremely hard every day just to meet their obligations.

It is patently unfair that hard-working Americans could be asked to work harder to pay more taxes that are needed simply to provide AIG executives with multimillion-dollar bonuses. It is patently unfair.

I encourage this body and President Barack Obama to take every avenue possible to stop these bonuses or, if they are legally unstoppable, to tax them beyond belief.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I hereby notify the House of my intention to offer a resolution as a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of my resolution is as follows:

Whereas, Mr. Paul Magliocchetti, a former Appropriations Committee staffer, founded a prominent lobbying firm specializing in obtaining defense earmarks for its clients and whose offices—along with the home of the founder—were recently raided by the FBI.

Whereas, the lobbying firm has shuttered its political action committee and is scheduled to cease operations at the end of the month but, according to the New York Times, "not before leaving a detailed blueprint of how the political money churn works in Congress" and amid multiple press reports that its founder is the focus of a Justice Department investigation. (The New York Times, February 20, 2009)

Whereas, CQ Today noted that the firm has "accepted \$107 million in lobbying fees from 2000 through 2008" and estimates of political giving by the raided firm have varied in the press, with The Hill reporting that the firm has given \$3.4 million to no less than 284 members of Congress. (CQ Today, March 12, 2009; The Hill, March 4, 2009)

Whereas, The Hill reported that Mr. Magliocchetti is "under investigation for [the firm's] campaign donations," the Washington Post highlighted the fact that federal investigators are "focused on allegations" that he "may have reimbursed some of his staff to cover contributions made in their names . . ." and the New York Times noted

that federal prosecutors are "looking into the possibility" that he "may have funneled bogus campaign contributions" to members of Congress. (The Hill, February 20, 2009; The Washington Post, February 14, 2009; The New York Times, February 11, 2009)

Whereas, Roll Call reported on "the suspicious pattern of giving established by two Floridians who joined [the firm's] board of directors in 2006" and who, with "no previous political profile . . . made more than \$160,000 in campaign contributions over a three-year period" and "generally contributed the same amount to the same candidate on the same days." (Roll Call, February 20, 2009)

Whereas, The Hill also reported that "the embattled defense lobbyist who led the FBI-raided [firm] has entered into a Florida-based business with two associates whose political donations have come into question" and is listed in corporate records as being an executive with them in a restaurant business. (The Hill, February 17, 2009)

Whereas, Roll Call also reported that it had located tens of thousands of dollars of donations linked to the firm that "are improperly reported in the FEC database." (Roll Call, February 20, 2009)

Whereas, CQ Today recently reported that Mr. Magliocchetti and "nine of his relatives—two children, his daughter-in-law, his current wife, his ex-wife and his ex-wife's parents, sister, and brother-in-law" provided "\$1.5 million in political contributions from 2000 through 2008 as the lobbyist's now-embattled firm helped clients win billions of dollars in federal contracts," with the majority of the family members contributing in excess of \$100,000 in that timeframe. (CQ Today, March 12, 2009)

Whereas, CQ Today also noted that "all but one of the family members were recorded as working for [the firm] in campaign finance reports, and most also were listed as having other employers" and with other occupations such as assistant ticket director for a Class A baseball team, a school teacher, a police sergeant, and a homemaker. (CQ Today, March 12, 2009)

Whereas, in addition to reports of allegations related to reimbursing employees and the concerning patterns of contributions of business associates and board members, ABC News reported that some former clients of the firm "have complained of being pressured by [the firm's] lobbyists to write checks for politicians they either had no interest in or openly opposed." (ABC News The Blotter, March 4, 2009)

Whereas, Roll Call has taken note of the timing of contributions from employees of Mr. Magliocchetti's firm and its clients when it reported that they "have provided thousands of dollars worth of campaign contributions to key Members in close proximity to legislative activity, such as the deadline for earmark request letters or passage of a spending bill." (Roll Call, March 3, 2009)

Whereas, reports of the firm's success in obtaining earmarks for their clients are widespread, with CQ Today reporting that "104 House members got earmarks for projects sought by [clients of the firm] in the 2008 defense appropriations bills," and that 87 percent of this bipartisan group of Members received campaign contributions from the raided firm. (CQ Today, February 19, 2009)

Whereas, clients of Mr. Magliocchetti's firm received at least three hundred million dollars worth of earmarks in fiscal year 2009 appropriations legislation, including several that were approved even after news of the FBI raid and Justice Department investigation into the firm and its founder was well known.

Whereas, the Chicago Tribune noted that the ties between a senior House Appropriations Committee member and Mr.